

made her one of Beaumont's top nurses and a mentor to the generations that have followed in her footsteps. Mrs. Wagoner's dedication to the care and well-being of her patients often included taking care of the emotional needs of their family members. Holidays with her own family often included a family member of a patient who had nowhere to go.

Mrs. Wagoner has given tirelessly to William Beaumont Hospital, to her patients, to her colleagues and to her family. I am proud to congratulate her on this accomplishment, and wish her well in a retirement that is so richly deserved.

#### THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BROADCASTERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to formally recognize the contribution of broadcasters across the country and from my home state of Georgia. Every community is impacted by broadcasters, the individuals who have dedicated their lives to disseminating important information by radio and television. As north Georgia prepares for snow, ice and sleet today and tonight—broadcasters are my constituents' go-to source for the latest on road conditions, power outages and school closings. We turn to broadcasters first—whether we are in our cars listening to the radio, or watching the news on television at home.

There are over 500 local radio and television stations in Georgia. In 2014 alone, local radio and television stations in Georgia produced over 50,000 hours of original over-the-air news programming, representing an increase from 2013. Broadcasters have created over 85,000 jobs in Georgia and the radio and television industry had an economic impact on Georgia of over \$39 billion in 2012.

#### COMMENDING THE CITY OF HATTIESBURG FOR DECLARING THE MONTH OF MARCH AS MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest appreciation and admiration to the City of Hattiesburg, the Honorable Mayor Johnny Dupree, and all who were involved in declaring the month of March as March for Meals Month in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. March for Meals commemorates the hard-work and selfless dedication of the MEALS ON WHEELS program, which brings hot meals to the homes of those in need.

I especially want to acknowledge the men and women who volunteer and work tirelessly to ensure that the MEALS ON WHEELS program at Christian Services, Inc. is a success. The program has proven to be a valuable resource to older adults and homebound individuals in the City of Hattiesburg and its sur-

rounding areas. In 2014, over 78,000 meals were delivered through MEALS ON WHEELS. Providing hot meals everyday not only meets the physical needs of the elderly and homebound but the smiles and kind words that MEALS ON WHEELS volunteers bring with each meal offer joy and hope with each delivery.

With the increasing need for programs to feed the homebound and seniors in our area, Christian Services has partnered with the City of Hattiesburg and the national MEALS ON WHEELS "No Senior Goes Hungry" campaign to raise awareness to the program and its contribution to the community. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Mississippi and the United States House of Representatives, I wish MEALS ON WHEELS continued success in their valiant effort to help their fellow man and commend the City of Hattiesburg for declaring March to be March for Meals Month.

#### AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA'S 50TH YEAR CELEBRATION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Autism Society of America's 50th Year Celebration and commemorate the organization on five decades of extraordinary service and effective advocacy on behalf of the autism community.

In 1964, concerned parents of children with autism—including Ruth Sullivan, Dr. Bernie Rimand and Dan Torisky—joined together to form what is now called the Autism Society of America. Continuing to implement the vision of its founders, the Society today is a grassroots organization that ensures parents have quality options and the supports necessary for their child to live and prosper in our communities.

The Autism Society of America and its 104 local and state affiliates work towards one goal: to help each individual with autism maximize his or her quality of life.

Having worked with the Society's remarkable president Scott Badesch—a tenacious and wise leader—I can attest to the dedication and commitment of the organization's leadership, and its staff and volunteers. Each person who comes to the Autism Society gains the knowledge that accompanies 50 years of experience to help ensure a life of dignity, respect and opportunity.

The organization has played a critical role in the enactment of many landmark pieces of legislation for individuals with disabilities—including the three laws I have written that provide federal resources for research, services and supports for children and adults with autism.

Today, the Society's mission and work has never been more important or more timely. We as a nation are in the midst of a huge yet largely invisible crisis that begs serious focus and durable remedies.

I am referring to the aging out crisis.

Every year, 50,000 young people on the autism spectrum matriculate into adulthood and are in the process of losing essential services. Individuals with autism in the aging out generation and their parents find themselves en-

tering into a system unprepared to meet their needs, and one that disincentivizes the opportunity and independence the Society has worked to achieve.

With the strong support and hard work of the Society, last Congress, we enacted my Autism CARES Act which calls for an agency report that lays the foundation for better addressing the aging out crisis.

The Society provided extremely valuable input into my legislation, now P.L. 113-157, which authorizes \$1.3 billion over five years to continue the critical pipeline of federal research dollars, and was the first piece of enacted legislation to address aging out. The Autism CARES Act tasked multiple Federal agencies to provide a comprehensive study on the needs of autistic young adults and transitioning youth and how they can better shape policies and programs to meet these needs.

This important law—like so many critical policy changes over the past 50 years—would not have been possible without the Autism Society of America.

I am so proud of and deeply grateful for the work of all of the volunteers and staff of the Autism Society of America and their affiliates. Thank you for your hard work and daily commitment to improving the lives of individuals with autism.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GREGG HARPER**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 85 on H.R. 734, I am not recorded due to inclement weather resulting in a travel delay. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

#### WELCOMING ONA BROWN TO "MOVING FORWARD AND SETTING THE WORLD"

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ms. Ona Brown to the annual Black History Month event "Moving Forward and Setting the World," organized by the Canisius College Academic Talent Search Program. The Moving Forward and Setting the World event will feature the African-German Art Exhibition from Homestory, Germany to honor Black History Month.

The Canisius College Academic Talent Search Program, the host of this event, has shaped a positive impact on many Western New York communities. The program is among eight federally funded TRIO programs established under Title IV of the Higher Education act of 1965. The Academic Talent Search Program provides educational, social and career support services for individuals with disadvantaged backgrounds in local schools and community service organizations.

Ms. Ona Brown, whom I welcome to this event, has recently been named one of the top five speakers in the world by Toastmasters

International. With more than fifteen years of public speaking experience Ms. Brown works with her consulting firm World Network Now to inspire and empower individuals around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to welcome the accomplished Ms. Ona Brown. I ask you to join me in thanking Ms. Brown for speaking at this valued local event. I wish Ms. Brown the best on her mission to change the lives of individuals across the globe.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN  
HODEL

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exemplary Arizonan, volunteer and fundraiser. Kathleen Hodel has become one of Lake Havasu City's greatest assets over her 20-year career. During this time she has been involved with and served on the boards of some 18 community organizations.

Two years ago, Kathy Hodel was diagnosed with an aggressive form of bone cancer. The irony of the situation that Kathy has spent years of her life fundraising for cancer research and cancer patients is not lost. She still continues fundraising and is an active member of her community.

Some of Ms. Hodel's most lasting efforts can be attributed to the fundraising she has done on behalf of Mohave Community College Foundation, resulting in a new library, classroom buildings, and scholarships for students.

Her list of achievements and awards is long and well-deserved. Most recently, in November of 2014, Kathy Hodel was recognized by the Greater Arizona Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the Spirit of Philanthropy Award at the 30th Annual Leadership in Philanthropy Awards Dinner.

It is my honor to commend Kathy Hodel for being such a shining beacon of positive influence and selflessness in the Mohave County community. She is an example to us all of what can be achieved with hard work, determination, enthusiasm and compassion. Kathy, we thank you for your lifetime of service.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM B.  
WALKUP—TENNESSEE AIR NA-  
TIONAL GUARD

**HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel William B. Walkup, Commander of the Tennessee National Guard's 118th Wing, Mission Support Group.

After 32 years of dedicated service to our state and country, Colonel Walkup has announced his retirement, effective April 18, 2015.

Through the numerous roles and positions of leadership, Colonel Walkup has made a lasting impact on the guardsmen of the 118th Wing and our state's Air National Guard.

Over the past three decades, Colonel Walkup was a Squadron Navigator, Chief of Current Operations, Chief Navigator, Operations Support Squadron Commander, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander and Maintenance Group Commander. Colonel Walkup has participated in deployments to the Middle East, Europe, Central and South America, and Southwest Asia. He has flown combat and support missions in Somalia, Bosnia and Southwest Asia.

While deployed abroad during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Colonel Walkup served as the 485th Deputy Maintenance Group Commander, in charge of the largest C-130 contingent in the war with 46 assigned aircrafts. In addition, Colonel Walkup served as the 486th and 332nd Maintenance Group Commander, during which he successfully lead over two hundred members in humanitarian, logistics and aircraft maintenance support with deployments to Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Joint Forge, the Global War on Terrorism, and Operation Unified Response.

Colonel Walkup's success as a guardsman is the product of hard work, an exceptional level of dedication, and a love for country that is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, this recognition is certainly well-deserved and is a testament to the heroism and dedication to duty that has marked Colonel Walkup's exemplary service in the Tennessee Air National Guard. I, along with the citizens of a grateful state and nation, extend a heartfelt thanks for his outstanding service to this great country and wish him the very best upon his retirement.

THE MEDICAID PHYSICIAN SELF-  
REFERRAL ACT OF 2015

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicaid Physician Self-Referral Act of 2015. This bill makes a necessary clarification to Section 1902 of the Social Security Act. It provides that Medicaid designated health services claims are subject to the same requirements as Medicare designated health services claims under the Physician Self-Referral Law.

Currently, there is uncertainty among stakeholders regarding the extent to which the requirements of the Physician Self-Referral Law apply to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. As a result, an important tool for fighting fraud in the healthcare system—which has successfully been employed for many years in the Medicare program—is underutilized in the Medicaid context. Congressional action is needed to provide legislative clarity that will strengthen the integrity of the Medicaid program in this area.

Health care providers subject to the Physician Self-Referral Law should not be able to avoid penalties simply because a claim is a Medicaid claim rather than a Medicare claim. Both programs involve taxpayer money and we need to ensure that law enforcement officials have the tools they need to combat fraud, waste, and abuse.

Although the law has long provided that the Medicaid and Medicare programs are on equal footing with respect to the Physician Self-Referral Law, this bill leaves no doubt that Congress intends this to be the case.

HONORING LARRY SHARP

**HON. PETE AGUILAR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Larry Sharp, a community leader from California's Inland Empire. Over the course of his career, Larry Sharp was a consistent advocate for working families. From his leadership on crucial economic projects, to his devotion to public education, to his dedication to support local businesses, Larry was an integral part of our community.

While Larry was the successful CEO and President of Arrowhead Credit Union, he was better known in the community as a leader, activist, father, and grandfather. He was a true community leader, never failing to stand up and defend his friends or neighbors when they were in need. During one of the most difficult times in recent memory, the 2008 economic crisis, Larry was at the forefront of helping Inland Empire residents facing housing and financial challenges. He worked with Republicans and Democrats at all levels of government, as long as it meant he was working on behalf of his community.

Larry was a leader, an advocate, but most importantly—he was a dear friend and mentor. He served his community for decades, and we are so much better for it. He will be dearly missed by his wife Cassie, five children, four grandchildren, and the entire Inland Empire Community. We will always be indebted to him for his devotion and work that bettered the lives of San Bernardino County's working families.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEDICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR.  
JOHN SHEA, JR.

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and medical contributions of renowned surgeon, innovator and "father of middle-ear surgery," Memphian Dr. John Shea, Jr. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Shea served in the Korean War before returning to Memphis and taking over his father's medical practice in 1952. Two years later, he traveled to Vienna, Austria where he began extensive research into otosclerosis that would lead to his inventing the world's first prosthetic stapes—the tiny stirrup-shaped bone in the middle ear—and performing the groundbreaking stapedectomy procedure, which has since been used by doctors worldwide.

While in Vienna, he read German manuscripts on otosclerosis, which is a condition of the inner ear that causes calcification of the